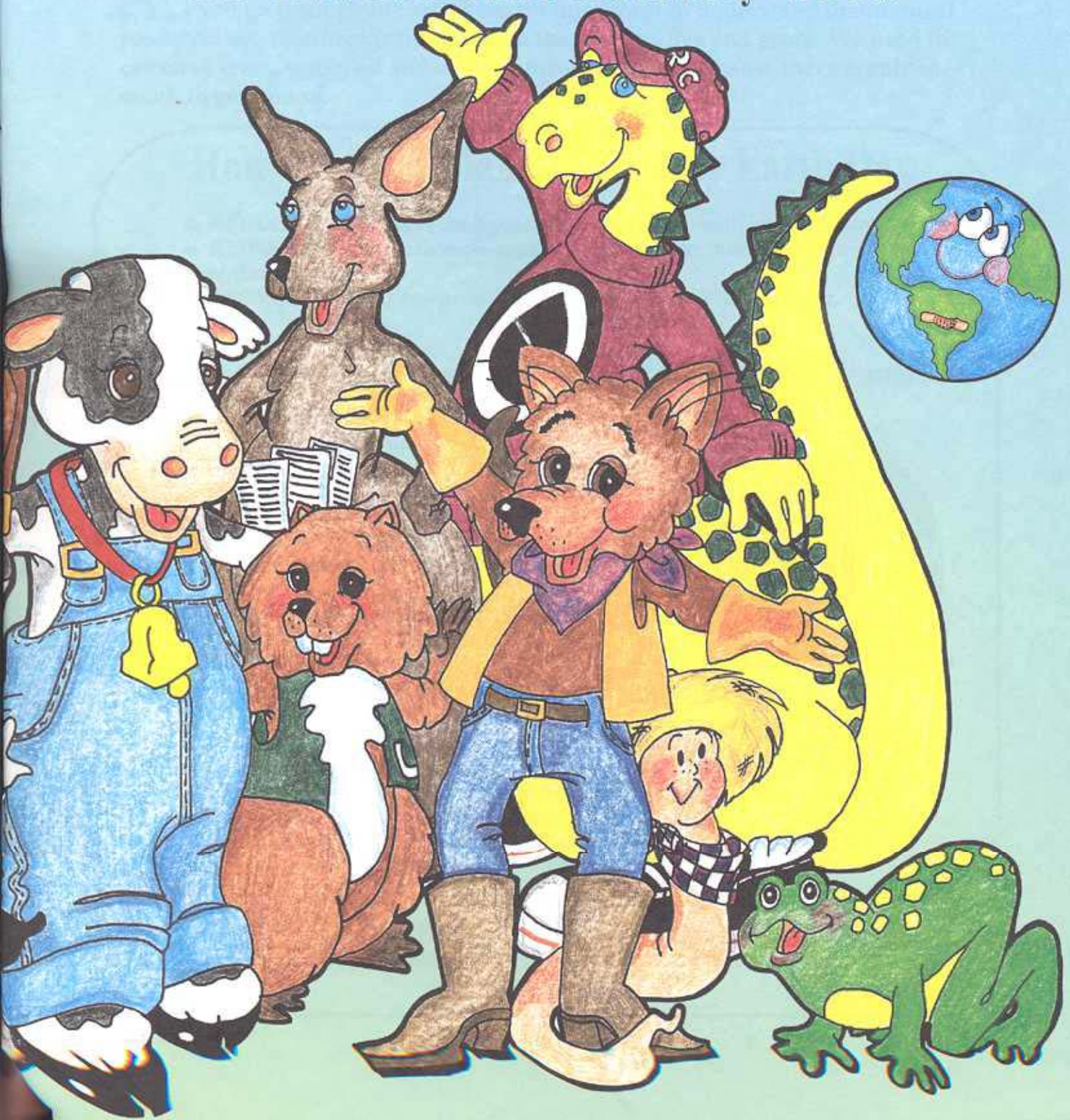


# Protecting Our Environment

An Educational Activity Book





# PROTECTING OUR ENVIRONMENT

An Activity Book and Guide to Reducing, Reusing and Recycling  
developed by local Waste Reduction Specialists

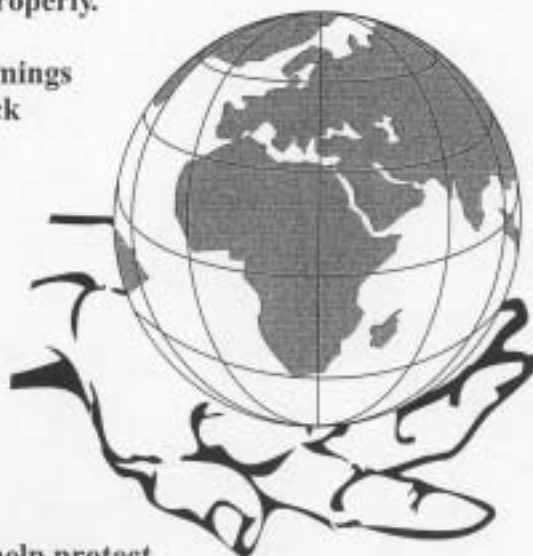
**A**s you go through the activities, it's important to understand that natural resources are treasures from the earth that help us live and grow. We need to conserve trees, water, oil and other natural resources because there is only so much to go around.

## How You Can Make Every Day Earth Day

- **REDUCE** the amount of trash generated-- buy things with less packaging.
- **REUSE** items more than once--repair them and make them last. Take care of them.
- **RECYCLE** as many resources as possible--soda cans, plastics, paper.

There are many other ways you can help protect our environment...

- ✓ Dispose of Household Hazardous Waste properly.
- ✓ Keep gutters clean and pick up litter.
- ✓ What about composting? Turn yard trimmings back into a soil-like mixture and put it back into the earth.
- ✓ How about buying products made from recycled material? This is called "closing the loop."
- ✓ Or you could become an artist and make something creative out of clean trash items (and save money, too!).
- ✓ You could start a recycling program in your class--or the whole school!



**T**hese are just a few things you can do to help protect the environment. Use your imagination!

As you go through the activities in this book, remember that protecting our environment is a responsibility that belongs to all of us, and if you have questions, be sure to ask!



California Environmental Protection Agency  
Department of Toxic Substances Control



# Don't Pollute Our Waterways.

**W**e need to be concerned about what goes into our storm drains. Stormwater runoff picks up trash which can choke, suffocate or disable marine life, such as birds, turtles and dolphins. Polluted sediment flowing into streams and lakes can clog fish gills, damage fish habitat and block light needed by aquatic plants for survival. And

hazardous waste, such as chemicals, oil, pet waste and household cleaners, can settle into streams, lakes and ocean floors, contaminating fish, shellfish and other marine life.

**P**rotection of our wildlife and waterways is important and it's our responsibility. The first step is learning all we can.

Stormy says, " \_\_\_\_\_ , \_\_\_\_\_ "

\_\_\_\_\_ .

Draw connecting lines--up, down and diagonally, and find out Stormy's message. We've given you a head start.



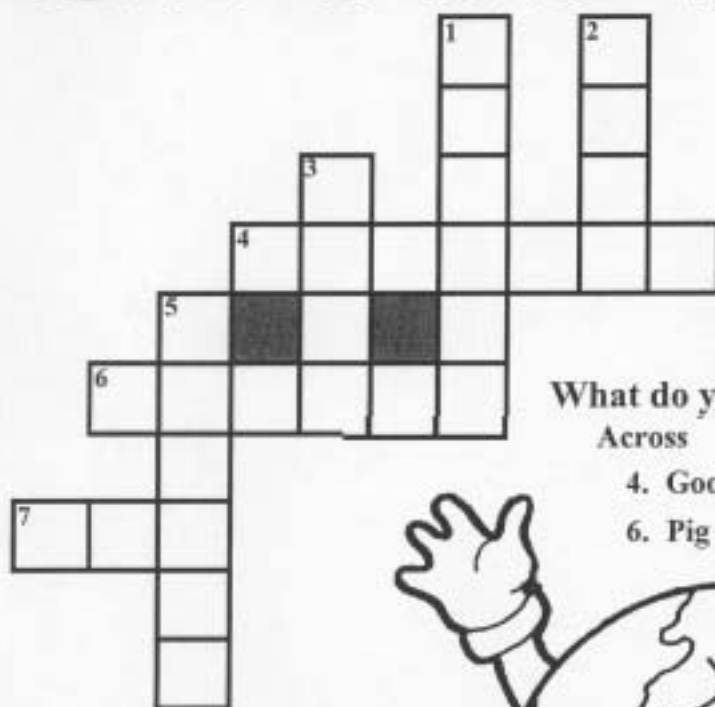
Stormy

Someone needs to educate these neighbors about protecting the environment. Telling them ways to prevent pollution of our water resources would be a good start. Find and circle 6 things you might tell them that they're doing wrong.

Someone needs to educate these neighbors about protecting the environment. Telling them ways to prevent pollution of our water resources would be a good start. Find and circle 6 things you might tell them that they're doing wrong.



# Baby Cross Word



**W**hen we protect our water resources by disposing of hazardous waste properly, we protect our wildlife—and domestic animals, too. Here we have a crossword puzzle where all the answers are little ones—little animals, that is.

What do you call a baby...?

Across

4. Goose 7. Fox  
6. Pig

Down

1. Eagle 3. Horse  
2. Deer 5. Cat



**Remember...**

Whatever we put into our  
stormdrains ends  
up downstream.

Globeh

Answers on pg. 14



The Caped  
Crudesaver

### Remember...

Buy less to begin with, buy recycled products, buy only what you can use and use products until they are gone. You will help save resources and keep our earth healthy.

## A Rebus Checklist

We've made a checklist of 3 important ways you can help the environment. Can you figure out these helpful hints?

✓ RE +  K + E = \_\_\_\_\_

✓ RE +  B + E = \_\_\_\_\_

✓ RE +  BI = \_\_\_\_\_

Answers on pg. 14

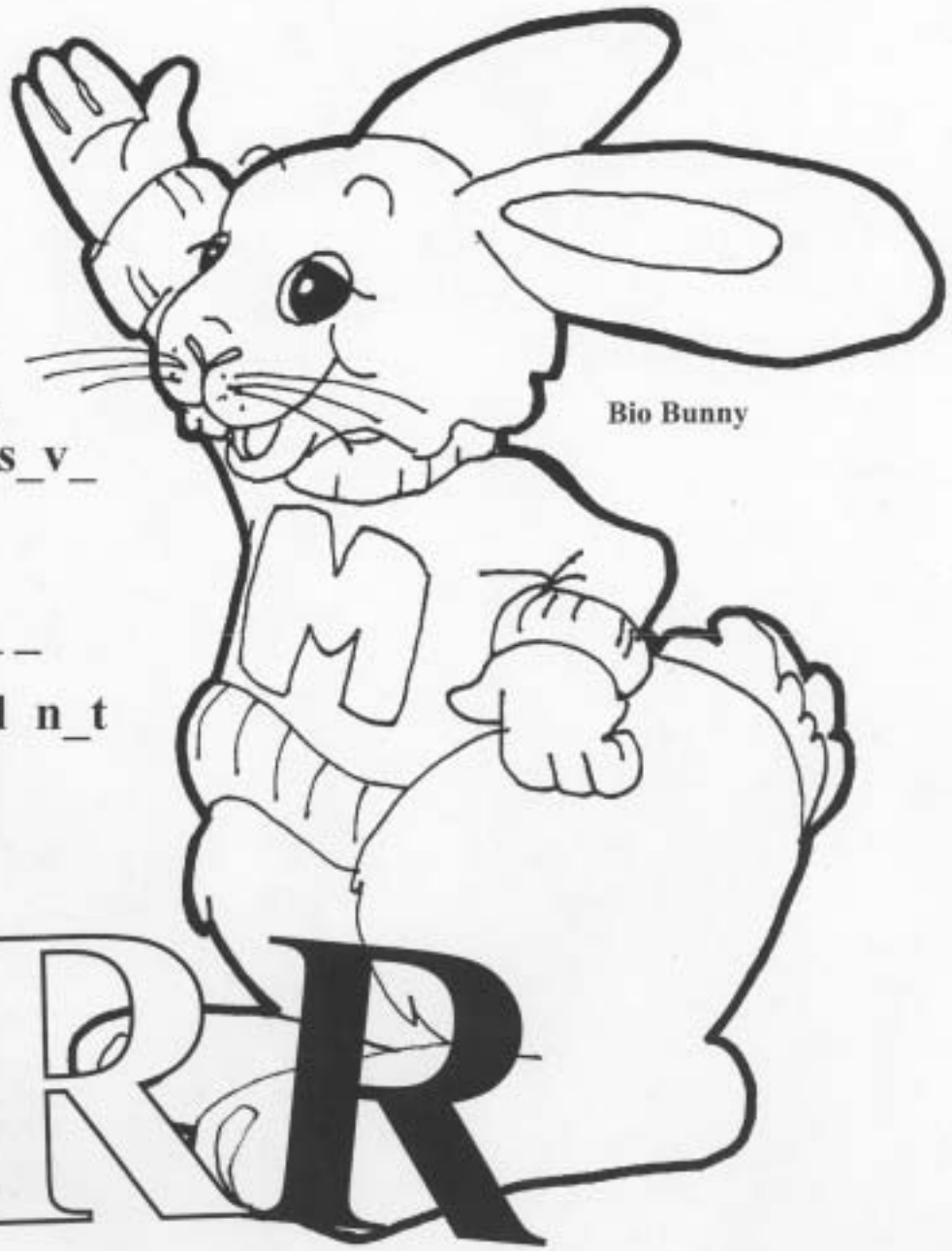
# Riddle Time

Want to figure out this important question and answer? It's easy! Just fill in the proper vowels --A, E, I, O, U (and sometimes Y & W).

Qu\_st\_n: Wh\_  
\_r\_th\_ thr\_  
Rs \_mp\_rt\_nt?

\_nsw\_r: B\_c\_s\_  
th\_y s\_ve  
n\_t\_r\_l\_r\_s\_re\_s,  
s\_ve \_n\_rg\_, \_nd s\_v\_  
m\_ney.

\_ls... Th\_r\_s t\_  
m\_ch g\_rb\_g\_ \_nd n\_t  
\_n\_gh l\_ndf\_lls.



# RRR

**REDUCE, REUSE, RECYCLE**

Answers on pg. 14



# Solid Waste WORD MATCH



**Hey!**

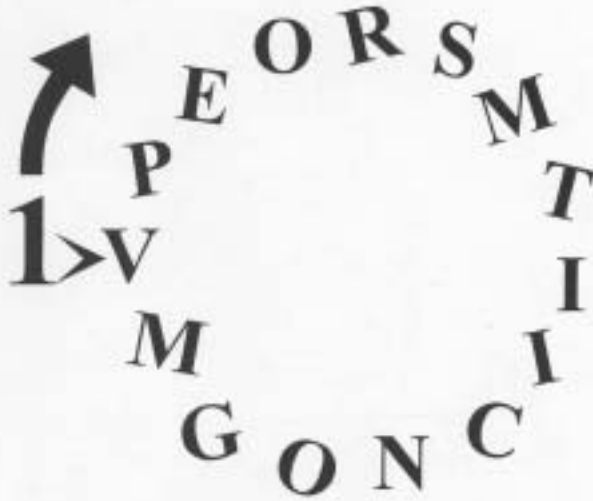
Here's one more chance to test  
your Environmental  
Knowledge! Match up the  
correct word(s)  
with the correct definition.  
(We've given you a head start.)

- |  |   |
|--|---|
| <input checked="" type="checkbox"/> Paper          | A. Recyclable, ground-up glass                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Motor Oil                 | B. Changes organic materials into soil-like mixture         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cellulose Insulation      | C. 30% of all landfill waste                                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Aluminum                  | D. A use of shredded newspaper                              |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Composting                | E. Recycling saves 95% of energy needed to process this     |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Plastics                  | F. Made from petroleum and natural gas                      |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Natural Resources         | G. One gallon can pollute 1 million gallons of water        |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Cullet                    | H. Some states have deposits on these and collect up to 90% |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Animal Bedding            | I. Materials that cannot be recycled go here                |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Landfills or Incinerators | J. If materials are not recycled, more of these are used    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> Beverage Containers       | K. A use of finely-ground newspaper                         |



# Word Wheels

Starting with the number one letter, count clockwise two letters and write that letter down, then repeat the process to find the hidden word(s). To help out, we've given hints for each answer. Good luck!



HIDDEN WORD:

(Hint: This is a word that means the same as, "Worm Composting.")



HIDDEN WORDS:

(Hint: Vegetable Scraps, Breads & Grains, Fruit Rinds & Peels, Tea Bags, Coffee Grounds & Filters.)



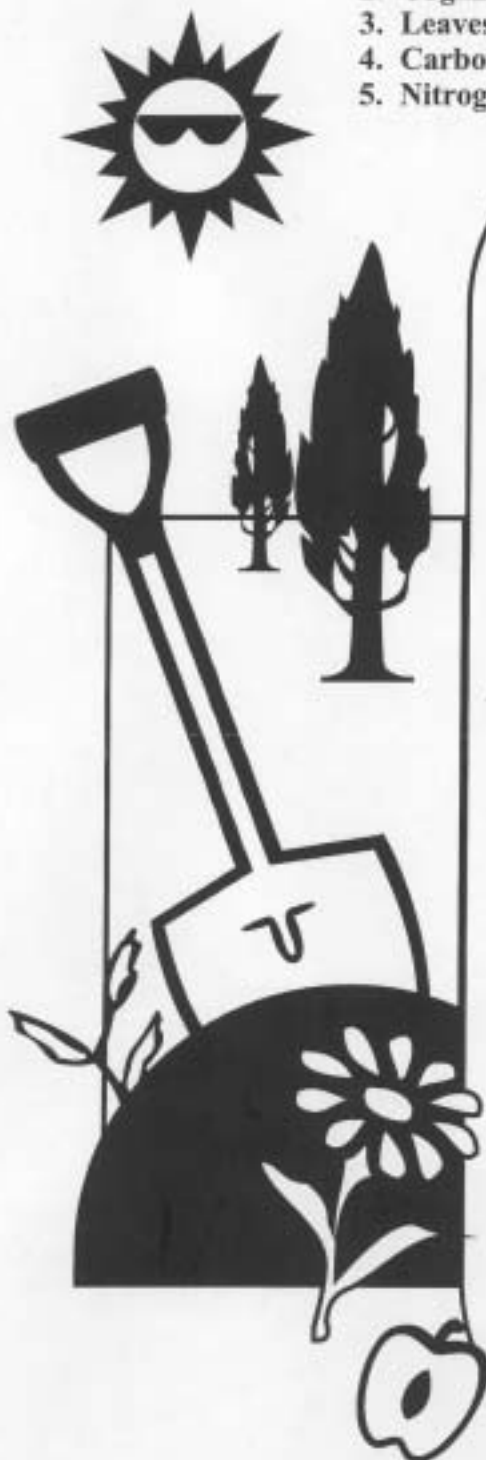
# COMPOST CRISS CROSS

Find the Words listed below.

1. Compost
2. Organic
3. Leaves
4. Carbon
5. Nitrogen

6. Stockpile
7. Nutrient
8. Soil
9. Minerals
10. Waste

11. Bin
12. Scraps
13. Mulch
14. Worms
15. Clippings



C	F	J	L	C	O	M	P	O	S	T
N	A	F	E	A	L	S	J	Y	I	L
G	C	R	A	J	O	G	H	S	M	J
B	Y	L	B	B	W	O	R	M	S	D
S	C	P	A	O	S	C	R	A	P	S
B	O	R	G	A	N	I	C	M	D	E
I	B	I	W	A	S	T	E	U	A	S
G	L	S	T	O	C	K	P	I	L	E
M	C	R	N	A	B	M	U	L	C	H
I	M	L	B	I	C	N	G	S	Y	B
N	H	Q	I	L	E	A	V	E	S	T
E	O	I	N	P	Z	F	M	I	S	Y
R	D	O	I	A	P	A	Z	M	Y	X
A	S	B	G	A	V	I	M	B	N	S
L	N	U	T	R	I	E	N	T	F	O
S	M	S	W	S	F	S	R	G	S	I
N	I	T	R	O	G	E	N	Y	S	L

Answers on pg. 15

# Be A Detective !

Here's a list of some things to put in your compost pile, but they're hidden in these sentences. See if you can find them all!  
(We've done the first one for you.)

1. I want Toni on my team!
2. You're like a breath of fresh air!
3. Franklin told me about it.
4. In awe, Ed stopped in his tracks.
5. Such a year it has been!
6. Sharp ears hear everything!
7. Jeb reads the comics every day.
8. Wrinkle a vest, and you must iron it!
9. Jeff lowers the flag at sundown.
10. Mardi Gras seems like fun!



## ANSWERS

1. ONION
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

Simon



See if you can unscramble these words  
to identify these 21 potentially harmful  
**Household Products.**

**GARAGE**

1. \_\_\_\_\_
2. \_\_\_\_\_
3. \_\_\_\_\_
4. \_\_\_\_\_
5. \_\_\_\_\_
6. \_\_\_\_\_

**BEDROOM**

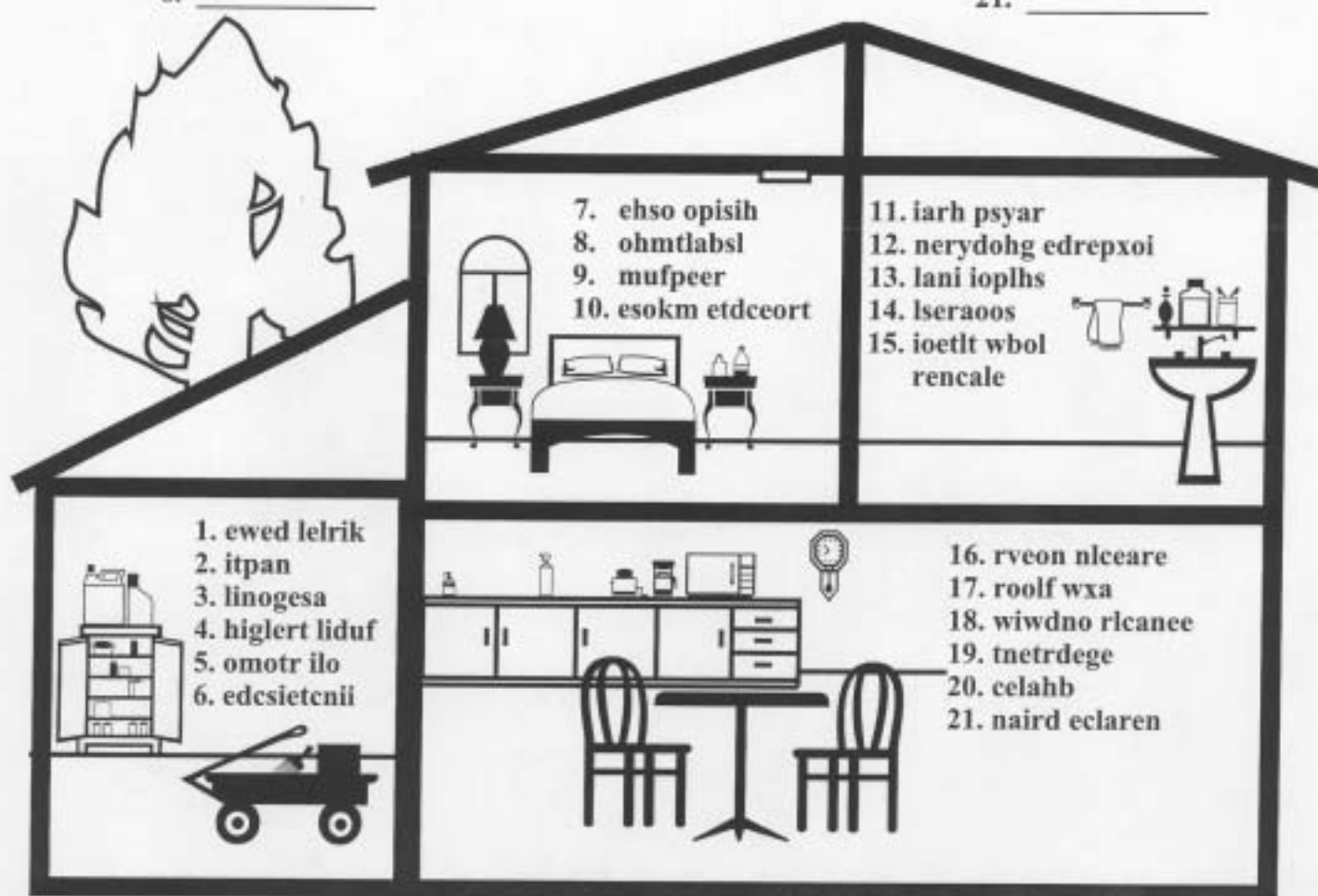
7. \_\_\_\_\_
8. \_\_\_\_\_
9. \_\_\_\_\_
10. \_\_\_\_\_

**BATHROOM**

11. \_\_\_\_\_
12. \_\_\_\_\_
13. \_\_\_\_\_
14. \_\_\_\_\_
15. \_\_\_\_\_

**KITCHEN**

16. \_\_\_\_\_
17. \_\_\_\_\_
18. \_\_\_\_\_
19. \_\_\_\_\_
20. \_\_\_\_\_
21. \_\_\_\_\_



# There is a Household Hazardous Waste Facility Near You...

**H**elp Chimoo find her way to the HHW Facility. You can find your HHW Facility by calling 1-800-CLEANUP, or by surfing [www.1800cleanup.org](http://www.1800cleanup.org). Or, you can check the back page for your city's phone number.

START HERE



Chimoo

If you cannot use up all the product or share it with a neighbor, bring these common items to your HHW Facility: Motor Oil, Oil Filters, Paint and Paint Thinners, Pesticides, Household Cleaners & Batteries. Properly disposing of HHW helps keep our environment clean and safe.

Answer on pg. 15

# What Do These Symbols Mean?

Write the letter for the correct definition next to each symbol.



A. **REACTIVE:** Chemicals that produce toxic vapors or explode when they come into contact with air, water or other materials. (Examples: lithium batteries and water, or a mixture of chlorine bleach and ammonia.)

B. **CORROSIVE:** Chemicals that cause damage to the skin. (Examples: bleach, drain cleaner, oven cleaner, pool chemicals.)

C. **RECYCLED:** New product made from recycled products. (Example: the paper used to print this activity book.)

D. **TOXIC:** Chemicals that can cause sickness or death. (Examples: mothballs, engine cleaners, pesticides.)

E. **FLAMMABLE:** Chemicals that ignite easily. (Examples: thinner, nail polish, aerosol products.)

F. **WASTE DISPOSAL:** Dispose of non-hazardous waste here.



Recycler Coyote

## Some Things You Should Know...

When disposed of improperly, Household Hazardous Waste is dangerous to us and to the environment. To identify HHW, look for these words: *Toxic, Reactive, Flammable, and Corrosive.*

Take all Household Hazardous Waste to your nearby HHW Facility. Used Oil and Used Oil Filters can also be taken to convenient Oil Collection Centers.



Here are the  
answers. How  
well did you do?

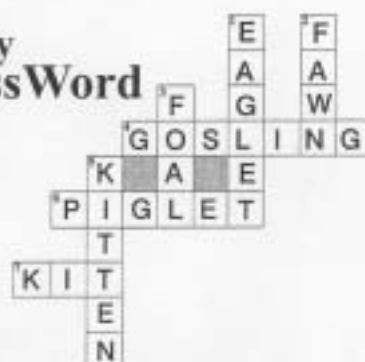
Croaker

Pg. 2: Stormy's Message: "Remember, we live downstream."

Pg. 3: What's Wrong with this Picture?

1. Miss Smith is not only wasting water while washing her car, but she is allowing soap to run toward the gutter.
2. Johnny's dog, Tuffy, is running loose, and pet waste doesn't belong in our stormdrains.
3. Mrs. Gray is overwatering her grass—wasting water and allowing lawn chemicals to run toward the stormdrain.
4. Oil from Bob Bradley's oil change is headed toward the stormdrain.
5. Instead of being disposed of properly, hazardous waste is leaching into the ground.
6. Fred Dalton should know that paint products don't belong in stormdrains. Paint and thinners should be taken to a Household Hazardous Waste Facility.

Pg. 4: Baby  
CrossWord



Pg. 5: A Rebus Checklist

☒ REUSE ☒ REDUCE ☒ RECYCLE

Pg. 7: Solid Waste Word Match

- |   |  |
|---|--|
| <input type="checkbox"/> C Paper                | <input type="checkbox"/> J Natural Resources         |
| <input type="checkbox"/> G Motor Oil            | <input type="checkbox"/> A Cullet                    |
| <input type="checkbox"/> K Cellulose Insulation | <input type="checkbox"/> D Animal Bedding            |
| <input type="checkbox"/> E Aluminum             | <input type="checkbox"/> I Landfills or Incinerators |
| <input type="checkbox"/> B Composting           | <input type="checkbox"/> H Beverage Containers       |
| <input type="checkbox"/> F Plastics             |  |

Pg. 6: Riddle Time

Question: Why are the three Rs important? Answer: Because they save natural resources, save energy, and save money. Also...There is too much garbage and not enough landfills.

Pg. 8: Word Wheels: Vermicomposting and Things Worms Love

**Pg. 9: COMPOST CRISS CROSS**



**Pg. 12: HHW Maze**



Pg. 13: Symbols



**Pg. 10: Be A Detective!**

1. ONION
2. HAIR
3. LINT
4. WEEDS
5. HAY
6. PEARS
7. BREAD
8. LEAVES
9. FLOWERS
10. GRASS

**Pg. 11: Household Products**

## GARAGE

1. weed killer
2. paint
3. gasoline
4. lighter fluid
5. motor oil
6. insecticide

### BATHROOM

11. hair spray
12. hydrogen peroxide
13. nail polish
14. aerosols
15. toilet bowl cleaner

## KITCHEN

- |                    |                    |
|--------------------|--------------------|
| <b>BEDROOM</b>     | 16. oven cleaner   |
| 7. shoe polish     | 17. floor wax      |
| 8. mothballs       | 18. window cleaner |
| 9. perfume         | 19. detergent      |
| 10. smoke detector | 20. bleach         |
|                    | 21. drain cleaner  |

**Pg. 16: Bet you didn't know this!**

**If we recycled all our aluminum for three months, we could rebuild the entire U.S. airline fleet.**



**Decode this message using the chart on the left.**

**Decode this message using the chart on the left.**

[illegible]

**Your City or County has programs dedicated to protecting the environment. For information about those programs, call 1-800-CLEANUP or visit [www.1800cleanup.org](http://www.1800cleanup.org)**

16



# Pledge To The Environment

I will do my part to protect planet Earth. I will make an effort to educate myself and others about recycling and the environment by reducing, reusing, recycling and buying recycled products. This way, I will be making every day Earth Day.

\_\_\_\_\_  
Sign Here



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